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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.5/47/L.26

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. The draft decision

1. Under the terms of draft decision A/C.5/47/L.26, the General Assembly would invite the Secretary-General to submit his proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as soon as possible after April 1993, and decide that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should meet for one week in May 1993 and for three weeks in August/September 1993.

B. Relationship of the draft decision to the approved programme of work

2. By its decision 42/450 of 17 December 1987, the General Assembly decided that the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) should, from 1988 onward, be composed of 34 States Members of the United Nations, elected for three-year terms on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. Prior to 1978, representatives travelled at the expense of their Governments. By paragraph 12 of its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the General Assembly authorized the payment to the members of the Committee of travel expenses (economy-class air fare) and subsistence allowance (at the standard rate established for Secretariat officials plus 15 per cent) as a special exception to the basic principles contained in paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962. This arrangement was approved for an

experimental period beginning in 1978 and was to have been reviewed by the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. The Assembly also approved by its resolution 31/93 the extension of the duration of the sessions of CPC to six weeks in the plan year and to four weeks in the budget year. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 1984/1 of 10 February 1984, the Economic and Social Council decided to recommend to the Assembly the continuation of the current application of paragraph 12 of Assembly resolution 31/93.

3. Accordingly, section 1 of the programme budget for 1992-1993 includes provision for travel of representatives to the thirty-third session of CPC on the assumption of a single four-week session and that assumption is also reflected in the approved calendar of conferences for 1993.

C. Additional requirements at full cost

4. Since provision has already been made for a four-week session of CPC in 1993, no additional resources will be required for subsistence allowances of representatives under section 1 or conference servicing under section 41. Holding the thirty-third session in two parts will, however, involve additional requirements for travel of representatives to the second part of the session. Based on the assumption that 24, or approximately 70 per cent, of the 34 members of the Committee would avail themselves of their entitlements in this regard, additional requirements in 1993 are estimated at $86,400.

D. Potential for absorption

5. No provision has been made in the programme budget for 1992-1993 for travel of representatives to the second part of the thirty-third session of CPC. Although the duration of two parts of the thirty-second session of CPC was five weeks in total, rather than the anticipated six weeks, expenditures in 1992 accounted for more than 60 per cent of the appropriation for this item in 1992-1993. Accordingly, it is not anticipated that the estimated cost of $86,400 referred to above can be absorbed from within the approved provision under section 1.

E. Indication of additional requirements

6. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/C.5/47/L.26, it is estimated that additional requirements of $86,400 would arise under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

F. Contingency fund

7. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from

legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

8. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the draft decision may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

G. Summary

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/C.5/47/L.26, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of $86,400 would be required under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.